



Ventura County Special Districts Association

VCSDA MEETING MINUTES

Approved Minutes

Approved: _____
Date: _____
Motion: _____
Second: _____

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 In-Person/Videoconference Via Zoom

VENTURA COUNTY SPECIAL DISTRICTS

MEMBERS

- Bell Canyon Community Services
- Calleguas Municipal Water
- Camarillo Health Care
Camrosa Water
- Casitas Municipal Water
- Channel Islands Beach Community Services
- Conejo Recreation & Park
- Hidden Valley Municipal Water
- Ojai Valley Sanitary
- Port of Hueneme/Oxnard Harbor
- Pleasant Valley County Water
- Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks
- Rancho Simi Recreation & Parks
- Saticoy Sanitary
- Triunfo Water and Sanitation District
- United Water Conservation
- Ventura County Resource Conservation
- Ventura Regional Sanitation
- Ventura River Water
- Ventura Port

The April 5, 2022 meeting of the Ventura County Special District Association was held in person at Conejo Recreation and Parks District's Public Meeting Room in Thousand Oaks and via Zoom videoconference.

1. and 2. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by President Bruce Dandy, who asked everyone to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL: President Dandy

President Dandy welcomed everyone to the meeting and then called roll:

Members in attendance included:

**Richard Levy, Eric Wolf, Dennis Zine - Bell Canyon Community Services
Charlotte Holifield - CSDA**

Raul Avila, Kristine McCaffrey and Andreas Santamaria - Calleguas Municipal Water

Jim Friedl, Susan Holt, Nellie Kerr/Cusworth, George Lange, Doug Nickels, Aline Reynders - Conejo Recreation and Park -

Michelle Kinnun, Mary Anne Rooney - Port of Hueneme Oxnard Harbor

Elaine Magner, Mark Malloy, Mary Otten - Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park

Elaine Freeman, Kate O'Brien, Dan Paranick - Rancho Simi Recreation and Park

Jane Nye - Triunfo Water and Sanitation

Bruce Dandy, Daniel Naumann, Zachary Plummer, Kris Sofley -United Water Conservation

Bruce Kuebler, Bert Rapp - Ventura River Water

Bruce Pendleton and Todd Mitchell - Ventura Port District

Mike Mishler

Members of the Public participating in the meeting included:

California State **Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin**

4. Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting of February 1, 2022

Motion to approve the February 1, 2021 Minutes: Mark Malloy; Second, Richard Levy. Brian Pendleton asked that the Minutes be changed in the Treasurer's Report to reflect that the VCSDA 2021 taxes were filed in May. Voice vote: all in favor, unanimous; any opposed, none; any abstaining, none. Motion carries unanimously

5. Guest Speaker - .California State Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin

President Dandy introduced Assemblymember Irwin, who congratulated

President—Bruce Dandy

Vice President—Al Fox

Treasurer—

Secretary to the Board—Kris Sofley

Mary Anne Rooney on being named District 44 Woman of the Year. She then said that going through the Pandemic has caused a lot of loss in the local community, but that federal money is coming into California and the state is distributing funds, too. She added that the Assembly just passed an extension of the rent moratorium—people who filed for assistance have more time now, and landlords need to be paid, too. There are supplemental sick leave bills and money for schools to make classrooms safer in preparation for the next pandemic.

Assemblymember Irwin discussed the potential gas rebates, saying there were different proposals, most taping into the budget surplus by giving a percentage back to taxpayers; and there is extra money for infrastructure below the Gann limit. She then remarked that California government had outgrown the Gann limit.

She then discussed the current drought conditions, calling it an extremely severe situation that may spur state investment in recycled water.

Assemblymember Irwin then spoke of her appointment to the Revenue and Tax Commission and that along with three of her colleagues was look to pass a research and development tax credit which was left out of previous budgets. She said that bio tech saved us with the pandemic. She also mentioned a program that would provide people with disabilities to save tax free, with no limit. Previously, if a person earned too much, they were penalized, but this would provide those individuals to work and save money. She is also looking to provide tax relief to property owners who lost their homes due to fire. She remarked that \$60 billion in California tax deductions are facing sunset hearings to determine if tax credits still make sense.

She mentioned a couple of recycling bills, first in the U.S., that would address minimum content for plastic bottles, and this year, battery recycling and battery embedded product recycling programs due to the first at trash facilities started by lithium batteries.

Assemblymember Irwin then opened the floor to questions.

George Lange asked if the gas rebate would be handled through debit cards. Assemblymember Irwin said that there were security issues with debit cards so the rebate would most likely be in the form of checks. Mr. Lange then asked about cyber security. She responded that she just attended a National Conference of State Legislators and confirmed that there is a national awareness regarding cybersecurity. She added that she was happy to hear that Jeannette sent him her cyber tips.

Assemblymember Irwin then spoke of her 35/30 plan for buying open space, especially interested in big parcels in Simi and a coastal parcel which is a priority for the Santa Monica Conservancy.

Dan Paranick thanked the Assemblymember for her support of open space and Assemblymember Irwin said she wanted to clarify that she thinks of open space as infrastructure.

Mary Anne Rooney thanked Assemblymember Irwin for the award and then asked about small community drought relief funds. She replied that she had no idea about and asked Ms. Rooney to send her a reminder through Jeannette.

President Dandy asked Assemblymember Irwin how she was liking her new temporary offices and when she would be accepting visitors. Assemblymember Irwin said the offices are about a block and half from the Capitol and she's getting used to the new space. She said they were currently experiencing an issue with the phones and that tech has been difficult, but encouraged visitors.

Mr. Lange mentioned that May 17 and 18 are the CSDA Legislative Days in Sacramento. Assemblymember Irwin thanked him for the heads up.

Brian Pendleton mentioned the State's recognition of ports and harbors, adding that Ventura Port District had received over \$1 million in funding and he was grateful to be in consideration for Round 2 of the funding. Assemblymember Irwin said it's difficult with Special Districts, as the Feds didn't call out Special Districts, but the state is doing the best it can, with ports at the front of the line. She said (State Controller) Betty Yee says that with supply chain issues, ports earn a higher priority.

With that, President Dandy thanks Assemblymember Irwin for her time and comments and she, in turn, thanked VCSDA for the opportunity to speak with everyone, at least virtually.

6. **Treasurer's Report**—Brian Pendleton

Mr. Pendleton reported that the VCSDA balance sheet shows \$16,320.52 including the \$2,000 scholarship to CSDA. The bookkeeper is set to file the 2018 and 2019 tax returns and the 2021 taxes will be filed in May, so the chapter is all caught up.

President Dandy thanked Mark Malloy for the information that he shared with Brian and Ms. Heyman, saying that he was a big help.

7. **Reports and Announcements**

CSDA Report from Elaine Magner—Ms. Magner said that this year's Legislative Days will be different in that elected officials will be coming to see CSDA members at the Sheraton Grand hotel. She said the chapter members are eligible for scholarships as the \$8 million budget cap has been removed and she looks forward to seeing everybody in Sacramento. She added that if anybody has any questions, they can email her or Charlotte Holifield.

CSDA Update from Charlotte Holifield — Ms. Holifield echoed Ms. Magner's comments and added late breaking news—that CA Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara will be providing the keynote address on May 17 at the CSDA Legislative Days. She also reminded the membership to submit entries for the CSDA Awards, including the Beacon Award and Leadership Award, as the deadline is May 2. She also mentioned confusion about AB 361's sunset and called everyone's attention to proposed bills on the November ballot that impact special districts, including 21-0042-A1 and encouraged members to go online to get a copy of a resolution opposing the amendment to the Tax Payer and Accountability Act which limits availability of voters and state and local government to raise revenues for government services.

LAFCo Update from Elaine Freeman — Ms. Freeman expressed her opinion regarding recent LAFCo actions, calling it a "disturbing process" regarding how staff handled the situation. She also called out coverage in the Ventura County Star regarding LAFCo's hearing on Bell Canyon and stated that there is nothing nefarious going on and that Bell Canyon is simply cooperating with its Home Owners Association (HOA) to make the community better. She said LAFCo made it sound like something illegal was going on, as she assured everyone that it is not the case. She ended by saying that it is "concerning for all of us regarding how LAFCo staff are behaving" and that "special districts are afraid of voting against LAFCo in Ventura County." She asked the membership to be diligent and scrutinize everything coming before LAFCo, and said that membership needs to stand together and stand firm.

Eric Wolf, Richard Levy and Dennis Zine from Bell Canyon addressed the membership thanking them for their support and updating them on the truth behind the LAFCo issues with Bell Canyon Community Services District.

Legislative Update from Elaine Freeman — Ms. Freeman said the Legislative Committee met four times last year and is looking at organization structure. Mary Anne Rooney suggested a public and private companies survey regarding engagement with legislators. She said she will also send out an update with bills of interest to all kinds of operations.

County Oversight Update - Mike Mishler Mr. Mishler reported that the County hasn't met yet so he has nothing to report.

8. New Business/ Member Announcements — President Dandy mentioned that he and CSDA's Charlotte Holifield received some information on Ventura County Measures A and B regarding petroleum drilling in Ventura County, which was not appropriate for the agenda — vote no/vote yes — but the VCSDA is not taking a position on this proposed legislation.

9. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING— 6:50p.m.

President Dandy thanked everyone for attending in-person and online and reminded all that the June 7 meeting would feature someone from CSDA as the guest speaker and the venue had not been confirmed as yet, but he was looking forward to seeing everyone on June 7, 2022.

Respectfully submitted

Kris Sofley

Kris Sofley, Secretary to VCSDA

